



**Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **U.S. CITIZEN FOUND GUILTY OF IMPORTING 106 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA**

TUCSON - The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on July 28, 2005, Jacqueline Janine Deskins, 26, a U.S. Citizen who was residing in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, was found guilty of Importation of 48 Kilograms of Marijuana and Possession with Intent to Distribute 48 Kilograms of Marijuana, by a federal jury in Tucson, Ariz.

The evidence at trial showed that on March 21, 2005, Deskins drove into the Port of Entry, in Douglas, Ariz., in a red Ford Mustang that contained 48 kilograms (106 pounds) of marijuana hidden in the engine compartment. The marijuana was discovered after Deskins drove the vehicle from Mexico into a Douglas Port of Entry lane, and Mexican Police Officers gained the attention of U.S. Customs Officers and pointed to the vehicle. U.S. Customs Officers then approached the vehicle and observed the distinct odor of burning marijuana, and saw smoke coming from the vehicle. The hood to the engine could only be opened from the outside by pulling a modified hidden lever. The engine was missing a fan, and one or more of the 24 individually wrapped packages of marijuana started to burn, after the engine apparently overheated. Deskins claimed she had no knowledge of the marijuana being in the vehicle.

The defendant has been in custody since her arrest and is being held after trial.

Jacqueline Deskins, had been charged with violating Title 21 of the United States Code, Sections 952(a), 960(a)(1), and (b)(4), and Title 21 of the United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(D), respectively. The case was tried before United States District Court Judge John M. Roll on July 26, 2005 and July 27, 2005.

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A conviction for both offenses carry a maximum penalty of five years, a \$250,000.00 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Roll will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Sentencing is set before Judge Roll on October 28, 2005.

The prosecution was handled by Melinda K. Mendes, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-0812-TUC-JMR  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-140

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